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Loma Prieta Chapter  
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My name is Alice Ringer and I am the Conservation Chair of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club. Tonight I am representing our 5,000 members who reside in the city of San José.

Mayor Gonzales and Council members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am here to express our grave concerns over the pace and planning of Coyote Valley. To date we have not seen adequate provisions for agricultural and habitat mitigations, protection of the greenbelt, and true smart growth provisions applied to the design for North and Mid-Coyote Valley.

There is no need to rush, and every reason to take the time, to ensure that Coyote Valley development does not unnecessarily imperil redevelopment opportunities in San José or the invaluable habitat and agricultural lands in South Santa Clara County.

Most importantly, with reduced economic pressure in South County and with the Habitat Conservation Planning process begun for the Pajaro and Coyote watersheds, there is a unique opportunity to plan Coyote Valley in its ecological context. By delaying a final plan for Coyote until the HCP/NCCP process is complete it will be possible to comprehensively and efficiently determine environmental impacts and mitigation opportunities.

The development of Coyote will create intense pressure for hillside development in addition to greater development throughout these watersheds. A delay now will allow protection measures by such organizations as the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and the Nature Conservancy to work through the HCP/NCCP process in a collaborative approach with municipal, county and landowner interests.

Tonight the council is being asked to confirm the Task Force's efforts to date which would lead to the commencing of the environmental review process. Should the council vote in the affirmative we respectfully request that the Council direct staff to include an alternative in the EIR that is based on Greenbelt Alliance's *Getting it Right* and we request that the City of San José undertake an economic analysis that compares the effect of developing Coyote Valley with other plans for downtown San José and North First Street. Your commitment to the application of smart growth tools for ensuring that San José continues to be the vibrant urban community it is will be demonstrated by the decisions you make now.